

But surely it is possible to construct a case, in which no other hypothesis would be admissible than that of the invisible agency of mind or spirit. If a case should occur in which certain well accredited phenomena had an invisible cause, and were at the same time manifestly dictated by intelligence, it seems to us the only reasonable hypothesis would be to ascribe them to mind or spirit. But it is hardly possible to state, much less to discuss with in narrow limits, such questions.

However inviting we cannot enter on them at present. But there can be no doubt, it seems to us, that for sanitary and moral reasons, a position of steadfast incredulity in respect to all so-called spiritualistic phenomena, is the one dictated by prudence and enlightened common sense.

This exceedingly well written and deeply interesting book of Dr. Hammond's we heartily commend to our readers, as a full and instructive, if not an exhaustive or satisfactory discussion of its theme.

IV. — ROSENTHAL: KLINIK DER NERVENKRANKHEITEN.

KLINIK DER NERVENKRANKHEITEN NACH SEINEN AN DER WIENER UNIVERSITAET GEHALTENEN VORTRAEGEN, VON M. ROSENTHAL. Zweite ganz umgearbeitete Auflage seines Handbuches. Stuttgart, 1875, 800 pages. (*Clinic of Nervous Diseases, &c.*)

This work, though called a second edition, it is stated in the author's preface, is nearly a new work, of which the substance of the older edition forms only an insignificant portion. As such it deserves an extended notice, especially since it is, in our opinion, one of the best manuals of its kind that we have met with. Among the numerous other treatises of its kind, it fairly deserves to hold its own. It is inferior to few, if any, and greatly superior in its merits to most. But for the fact that we have the recent published manual of Hammond, and the standard works of Handfield Jones, and others, in this department, to say nothing of the translation now being made of the volumes of Ziemssen's Hand-book into our language, it would seem almost

necessary that this work, also, should be put into the hands of the English speaking student. While it is less elaborate and extensive than the volumes on nervous diseases of the Ziemssen Cyclopaedia, and less detailed and practical in some respects than Dr. Hammond's treatise, it is more condensed and convenient than the one, and more comprehensive than the other. We are very far from certain that an English translation would not be highly acceptable to the medical public, and remunerative to its publishers. We understand that it is soon to appear in a French edition, and to be honored with an introduction by Prof. Charcot.

We have said above that this work is comprehensive. Its author includes in it, with most of the usual affections in which the nervous system plays a principal part, and which are usually described in books of this class, others that rarely find mention in treatises on nervous diseases, such, for example, as Addison's disease, impotence, aspermatism, the nervous complications of typhus and typhoid fevers, whooping-cough, diphtheritic and syphilitic paralysis, and the nervous derangements of the stomach. As a matter of course, with such a comprehensive scheme, elaborate articles on all the various disorders are out of the question in the compass of a volume like the present, the subject matter must be condensed, and there can be no lengthy records of illustrative cases. Notwithstanding this necessity, which might be expected, to a certain degree to affect the fullness of the accounts of some diseases that require more or less elaborate and exhaustive description, we find the work quite satisfactorily full in its treatment of most of the more important disorders, and containing numerous references to nearly all the latest and best literature of the subject. Considerable space is saved by the complete omission of all mention of mental disorders, especially as such and apart from the mental symptoms in other diseases, on the ground, we presume, that they come in the department of psychiatry, rather than in that of nervous diseases. This distinction, which is practical, rather than strictly scientific, has not come to be generally recognized on this side of the Atlantic.

Prof. Rosenthal opens at once on the subject of cerebral affections, without any introductory remarks on nervous diseases in general, their therapeutics, etc., as is often done in works of this class. He begins the description of this first class of nervous disorders with some general statements of their characteristic features, in which he notices certain points in the diagnosis, or localization of special lesions, that are also mentioned farther on, when describing the particular forms of disease or injury.

Thus the author reviews briefly the various symptoms that are generally met with in cerebral disorders, the disturbances of sensibility and motility, and of special functions, like that of

speech. He explains the participation of the cranial nerves according to the seat of the lesion, accounts for cerebral hemiplegias and paraplegias, and mentions the vaso-motor and trophic results of disorders of the brain. It is a good introduction to the study of diseases of this class, in that it groups together the generalities that are to be spoken of in relation to them before passing to their separate consideration. In the description of the special forms of cerebral disease, we find between thirty and forty pages only given to the affections of the cerebral membranes, including pachymeningitis, external and internal, morbid growths, inflammations, and thromboses of the sinuses, and epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis, as well as the commoner recognized forms of meningitis. We notice that in speaking of arachnitis, the author rejects it as an independent disease, holding, very properly, we think, that any inflammatory alteration in this membrane is associated with and clinically inseparable from similar affection of the pia mater. We mention this point merely because arachnitis is often spoken of by authors in such a way as to convey the impression that they hold that the arachnoid, a hyaline membrane almost entirely destitute of nerves and vessels, can undergo an independent inflammation. In the remarks on the treatment of epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis, our author finds no support for the practice of free venesection, which has lately been strongly recommended by Dr. Jones, of New Orleans, whose recent volume of medical and surgical memoirs is noticed in this number of THE JOURNAL.

Cerebral hemorrhage is treated at some length, over thirty pages being given to its consideration. One point here is noticeable as indicating the author's views on a disputed question. He dismisses the subject of direct hemiplegia; or that occurring on the same side of the body with the lesion, with the following words. "In hemiplegia on the same side as the cerebral hemorrhage, the latter is never confined to the corpus striatum or nucleus lenticularis of one side, but simultaneously invades the adjoining cerebral lobes, and the consequent softening or oedema of the cerebral substance, causes its effects also to be produced in the opposite hemisphere." This handling of the subject will probably appear like rather cavalier treatment to Dr. Brown-Sequard and the other advocates of the possibility of direct hemiplegia without participation of more than one hemisphere, and it really would seem that more might have been said in a work, which like this, is rather more than a mere short compendium.

The special symptomatology, according to the seat of the lesion in cerebral hemorrhage, is given briefly, but on the whole, as well as could reasonably be expected, in the space allotted it. The same might be said of the discussion of the subject of aphasia, in connection with that of embolism of the

cerebral arteries. The author, in his remarks on pigmentary embolism seems, though we cannot say he expressly commits himself, to favor the idea that it is connected with splenic derangement. We have, in a previous review in this JOURNAL, stated what appear to us to be certain difficulties in the way of accepting this view.

The diagnosis of the locality of cerebral tumors, is discussed at considerable length, the author names as many as twelve separate regions, in which it is possible, he thinks, to, sometimes at least, determine the presence of a tumor. We think that while this may be possible in some cases, the difficulties in the way of accurate diagnosis of tumors, in others, are very great, and are perhaps too little dwelt on here. Syphilomata are mentioned separately with the other possible syphilitic lesions of the brain.

The second class of nervous diseases, in the arrangement of the present work, is that of the affections of the medulla oblongata. We will only notice one thing here. The author, in his remarks on ætiology of glosso-labio-laryngeal paralysis, states that heredity has never been shown in any case. We would merely say, in regard to this point, that we have knowledge of one family in which it has appeared in two generations, under circumstances which seem strongly to indicate a hereditary tendency to the disease.

The third class of our author, includes all the diseases affecting the spinal cord and its membranes, and like that of cerebral disorders, is introduced with an introductory section, reviewing the general symptoms met with in this class of affections. We shall be obliged to pass over a large part of this very important section without detailed mention, and to notice only a few leading points, which seem to call for remarks, or to be otherwise especially noticeable. First, we observe that the author, in his very brief remarks on spinal anæmia, makes only a very wholesale statement of its symptoms, holding that they are included under those of a general anæmic condition of the system, though, he admits that in some cases, it is indicated by weakness of the members, heightened reflex irritability, etc.

The differential diagnosis is, we think, wisely omitted, and the whole subject of spinal irritation, which is connected by some authorities with this pathological condition, finds no place, whatever, in his classification.

The neglect of all mention in this connection of the conditions, vague though they may be in some respects, which pass under this general designation, and also, of those to which the names *neurasthenia*, *cerebrasthenia*, *nervosisme*, etc., have been given, is in our opinion, somewhat of a defect in the volume, excellent as it is in other respects. In fact, the non-recognition of these conditions, which we hold to be entitled to a place in the list of nervous diseases, certainly as much as hys-

teria, under which he includes them, is one of the few omissions that we have to regret in this work. Nearly everything else that can by any usage of terms be called an affection of the nervous system or its appurtenances, is included.

A whole chapter is given to the different causes of myelitis from pressure and from affections of the vertebrae, caries, spondylitis deformans, fractures, dislocations, cancers, tumors, aneurysm, etc., etc., considerably more in proportion, than is often allotted to these subjects, in works of this kind. The author considers spondylitis deformans to be especially an affection of advanced age, and only exceptional in young persons. He does not appear to recognize as one of its causes, rheumatic affections, which may, we think, have sometimes, a considerable agency in its production, and may occur as well in young as in older individuals.

Among other points that are noticeable in this section, we may mention here the description of locomotor ataxy which is quite full and complete under the old name "*tabes dorsalis*." The lateral sclerosis of the cord described by Charcot, Hammond, and others, finds no special recognition as a separate disease, the same may be said of the amyotrophic lateral sclerosis of Charcot, and of some other affections. With these omissions, the description of the class of spinal diseases is incomplete, and therefore somewhat unsatisfactory. Another matter in which we have to disagree with Professor Rosenthal, is the omission of pseudo-hypertrophic muscular paralysis among the spinal disorders, and the placing it in the class of vaso-motor and trophic neuroses, at the end of the volume, while progressive muscular atrophy is here included, and receives a pretty fair description and discussion in its appropriate position in the classification.

The long chapter on hysteria can be passed by with simply the general remark, that while it is extremely good in many respects, the author has made it rather too comprehensive, in bringing under this general head nearly all the varieties of conditions of increased irritability of the nervous system. This exceeds even the usual misuse of the word, in our opinion, and we dislike to see it in a work like the one before us.

There are but one or two things in the remainder of the work that seem to us to call for any remark, other than the general one of approval. The author is usually right in his judgments, and his accounts of the various affections are, to the extent which he gives them, in the main, unexceptionable. He includes, however, among the affections which he recognizes, one or two that in our opinion, scarcely deserve a place in a work of this kind. Thus he recognizes Chorea major as an independent disease, while we are inclined to think, with Eulenberg, that it has no legitimate rank as a separate affection from the very general and somewhat vague collection of symptoms, passing under the name hysteria. Our author, it appears to us would have done

better to have included this so-called disease under that head, than to have extended the latter so as to include such conditions as neurasthenia, which seems much better defined as a systematic condition and more explainable as to its pathology.

Prof. Rosenthal offers as a class of nervous diseases, neuroses of the sexual apparatus, including under this head, spermatorrhea, impotence, and aspermatism. Though these, and especially the second, are often symptoms of nervous derangement or the consequences of the same, the propriety of their being alike ranked as neuroses, pure and simple, is, at the best, not a matter of certainty. Impotence is far from being a neurosis in old age, unless we consider every other seile deficiency to be one also, and, even in middle or early life there are many causes that may produce it, apart from special troubles bearing on the nervous system.

The ninth class of nervous diseases, as classified in this book, is that of peripheral disorders of the nerves. We have in former reviews, stated our opinion, that this category is usually made to include disorders that in accordance with no correct pathological views, can be other than central, and it appears to us that this class in the present work is no exception to the rule. It is true, that this fact may be recognized and yet the classification be held to for convenience sake, as appears to be somewhat the case with this volume, but the criticism is still valid and called for. We see no special reason for such a class when, with the description of many of the separate disorders it is necessary to admit, that they may be either central or peripheral in their origin, and perhaps more often the former than the latter. Such nervous troubles as migraine, nervous vomiting, etc., appear to us to be out of place when classed among peripheral affections, and the same is true of many of the affections of the cranial nerves and the majority of the neuralgias. The fact that pain is always a central symptom, properly speaking, is hardly enough kept in mind, and most authors have neglected it. The fact, that peripheral irritation of centripetal nerves, may cause pain which is referred altogether to the distribution of still other nerves, as is daily seen in certain diseases, and other facts of like nature, should be considered in this connection.

In our above remarks, we have, with a general commendation of the work, which is fully deserved, confined our notice, principally to certain points in which it appears to us to call for criticism, though not for the purpose of especially showing up its defects. Its merits are, as we have stated, very great, and we have not the space to devote to a detailed statement of them. We would recommend the work to the student, as an able and concise treatise on the subject of diseases of the nervous system.